

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/929,519	CHANG, KAE-POR F.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jeffrey C. Pwu	2143	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to 6/2/06 Amendment & 8/30/06 Interview.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-8, and 10, 25-35
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All      b)  Some\*      c)  None      of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 3/18/03 ; 5/8/05
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.



JEFFREY PWU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David S. Gesner on August 30, 2006.

2. Claims 1,-3, 5-8, 10, and 25 –35 have been amended as follow:
  1. An information distribution system for use in a system in which a user device is in communication with a plurality of provider systems including at least first and second provider systems, each provider system being operable to process a transaction initiated by the user device, each transaction comprising a provision of information to a provider system by the user device, the information distribution system comprising:
    - an interface which receives the information provided by the user device;
    - a database, in communication with the interface, in which the received information is stored; and
    - an information manager in communication with the database and the plurality of provider systems which is operable to:
      - identify components of information usable by the first provider system or by the second provider system in performing a transaction, wherein said components of information comprise a list of checkout questions used by the first and second provider systems;
      - determine which of the components of information are related;
      - upon determining that certain of the components of information are related, group the related components of information into checkout objects;
      - evaluate the checkout objects to determine a first set of checkout objects [that should] to be transmitted to only the first provider system, a second set of checkout objects [that

should] to be transmitted to only the second provider system, and a third set of checkout objects [that should] to be transmitted to both the first provider system and the second provider system; and

transmit the first set of checkout objects to the first provider system, the second set of checkout objects to the second provider system, and the third set of checkout objects to the first provider system and the second provider system.

2. The information distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the interface is a network interface coupled to a network including one or more clients.

3. The information distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the database is a relational database (RDBMS).

4. (Cancelled)

5. The information distribution system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the components of information comprises a plurality of data fields provided by the user device.

6. In a system in which a user device is in communication with a plurality of provider systems including at least first and second provider systems, each provider system being operable to process a transaction initiated by the user device, each transaction comprising a provision of information by the user device, a method for sharing information among provider systems, comprising acts of:

(A) receiving the information provided by the user device;

(B) storing the information;

(C) identifying components of information usable by the first provider system or by the second provider system in performing a transaction, wherein said components of information comprise a list of checkout questions used by the first and second provider systems;

(D) determining which of the components of information are related;

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(E) upon determining that certain of the components of information are related, grouping the related components of information into checkout objects;

(F) evaluating the checkout objects to determine a first set of checkout objects [that should] to be transmitted to only the first provider system, a second set of checkout objects [that should] to be transmitted to only the second provider system, and a third set of checkout objects [that should] to be transmitted to both the first provider system and the second provider system; and

(G) transmitting the first set of checkout objects to the first provider system, the second set of checkout objects to the second provider system, and the third set of checkout objects to the first provider system and the second provider system.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the act (A) further comprises receiving the information over a communication network.

8. The method according to claim 6, wherein the act (B) further includes storing the information in a database.

9. (Cancelled)

10. The method according to claim 6, wherein at least one of the components of information comprises a plurality of data fields provided by the user device.

11-24. (Cancelled)

25. At least one computer-readable storage medium having instructions encoded thereon, which instructions, when executed in a system in which a user device is in communication with a plurality of provider systems including at least first and second provider systems, each provider system being operable to process a transaction initiated by the user device, each transaction comprising a provision of information by the user device, a method for sharing information among provider systems, perform a method comprising acts of:

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- (A) receiving the information provided by the user device;
- (B) storing the information;
- (C) identifying components of information usable by the first provider system or by the second provider system in performing a transaction, wherein said components of information comprise a list of checkout questions used by the first and second provider systems;
- (D) determining which of the components of information are related;
- (E) upon determining that certain of the components of information are related, grouping the related components of information into checkout objects;
- (F) evaluating the checkout objects to determine a first set of checkout objects [that should] to be transmitted to only the first provider system, a second set of checkout objects [that should] to be transmitted to only the second provider system, and a third set of checkout objects [that should] to be transmitted to both the first provider system and the second provider system; and
- (G) transmitting the first set of checkout objects to the first provider system, the second set of checkout objects to the second provider system, and the third set of checkout objects to the first provider system and the second provider system.

26. The at least one computer-readable storage medium according to claim 25, wherein the act (A) further comprises receiving the information over a communication network.

27. The at least one computer-readable storage medium according to claim 25, wherein the act (B) further includes storing the information in a database.

28. The at least one computer-readable storage medium according to claim 25, wherein the act (C) further comprises identifying the first component of information based upon a mapping between components of the received information and components expected by the first and second provider systems.

29. The at least one computer-readable storage medium according to claim 25, wherein the first component of information comprises a plurality of data fields provided by the user device.

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30. The at least one computer-readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the system further comprises a third provider system, the act (C) further comprises identifying components of information usable by the first provider system or by the third provider system in performing a transaction, the act (D) further comprises determining which of the components of information usable by the first provider system and which of the components of information usable by the third provider systems are related, the act (E) further comprises, upon determining in the act (D) that components of information usable by the first provider system or the third provider systems are related, grouping the related components of information into checkout objects, the act (F) further comprises evaluating the checkout objects to determine a first set of checkout objects which should be transmitted to only the first provider system, a fourth set of checkout objects that should be transmitted to only the third provider system, and a fifth set of checkout objects that should be transmitted to both the first provider system and the third provider system, and the act (G) further comprises transmitting the first set of checkout objects to the first provider system, the fourth set of checkout objects to the third provider system, and the fifth set of checkout objects to the first provider system and the third provider system.

31. The at least one computer-readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the act (B) further comprises storing a plurality of attributes for each of the components of information, the plurality of attributes including first and second attributes, the first attribute defining a format for providing components of information to the first provider system, the second attribute defining a format for providing the components of information to the second provider system, and wherein the act (G) further comprises transmitting components of information to the first provider system as defined by the first attribute and to the second provider system as defined by the second attribute.

32. The information distribution system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises a third provider system, and wherein the information manager is further operable to:

identify components of information usable by the first provider system or by the third provider system in performing a transaction;

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determine which of the components of information usable by the first provider system and which of the components of information usable by the third provider systems are related;

upon determining that components of information usable by the first provider system or the third provider systems are related, group the related components of information into checkout objects;

compare the checkout objects to determine a first set of checkout objects which should be transmitted to only the first provider system, a fourth set of checkout objects that should be transmitted to only the third provider system, and a fifth set of checkout objects that should be transmitted to both the first provider system and the third provider system; and

transmit the first set of checkout objects to the first provider system, the fourth set of checkout objects to the third provider system, and the fifth set of checkout objects to the first provider system and the third provider system.

33. The information distribution system of claim 1, wherein the database stores a plurality of attributes for each of the components of information, the plurality of attributes including first and second attributes, the first attribute defining a format for providing components of information to the first provider system, the second attribute defining a format for providing components of information to the second provider system, and wherein the information manager is further operable to transmit components of information to the first provider system as defined by the first attribute and to the second provider system as defined by the second attribute.

34. The method of claim 6, wherein the system further comprises a third provider system, the act (C) further comprises identifying components of information usable by the first provider system or by the third provider system in performing a transaction, the act (D) further comprises determining which of the components of information usable by the first provider system and which of the components of information usable by the third provider systems are related, the act (E) further comprises, upon determining in the act (D) that components of information usable by the first provider system or the third provider systems are related, grouping the related components of information into checkout objects, the act (F) further comprises comparing the checkout objects to determine a first set of checkout objects which should be transmitted to only

the first provider system, a fourth set of checkout objects that should be transmitted to only the third provider system, and a fifth set of checkout objects that should be transmitted to both the first provider system and the third provider system, and the act (G) further comprises transmitting the first set of checkout objects to the first provider system, the fourth set of checkout objects to the third provider system, and the fifth set of checkout objects to the first provider system and the third provider system.

35. The method of claim 6, wherein the act (B) further comprises storing a plurality of attributes for each of the components of information, the plurality of attributes includes first and second attributes, the first attribute defines a format for providing components of information to the first provider system, the second attribute defines a format for providing components of information to the second provider system, and wherein the act (G) further comprises transmitting components of information to the first provider system as defined by the first attribute and to the second provider system as defined by the second attribute.

3. Claims 4, 9, and 11-24 have been canceled.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey C. Pwu whose telephone number is 571-272-6798. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



8/30/06

JEFFREY PWU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER